



Lecturer / Senior Lecturer in Sustainable Livestock Production
Briefing Pack – August 2019

Introduction

The Royal Agricultural University is looking to appoint an experienced academic within the subject discipline of Livestock Production. The successful applicant will play a critical role in shaping and delivering the University's programmes to produce the successful and pioneering farmers of the future.

A full University since 2013, the Royal Agricultural University is an acknowledged and long established leader in education, applied research and knowledge exchange relevant to the agri-food, land management and rural enterprise sectors and has well established links with employers, government and a range of NGOs.

The University has gone through a period of transformational change. The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joanna Price, and the new leadership team have developed a strategic vision for the RAU that will ensure both relevance and sustainability. This appointment to the School of Agriculture, Food and Environment will provide excellent and innovative approaches to the learning environment. The ideal candidate will have an established background in the Higher Education sector, industry-relevant research or experience, and knowledge exchange.

The University

The University offers a stimulating, supportive learning environment designed to address the changing needs of the employment market by combining high academic standards (it was awarded TEF silver) with practically applied research, enhanced by strong professional and industry links. As a result, the RAU produces leaders and innovators across the land-based industries. The University is divided into four academic schools, each with a new Head of School appointed in the last two years:

- School of Agriculture, Food and the Environment (Professor Mike Gooding)
- School of Business and Entrepreneurship (Dr David Bozward)
- School of Equine Management and Science (Dr Andrew Hemmings)
- School of Real Estate and Land Management (Professor Neil Ravenscroft)

These schools offer undergraduate, masters and doctoral programmes across a range of academic disciplines. Courses are managed and taught by experienced staff and specialist consultants, many of whom are also engaged in professional practice. Students can choose from a range of degrees, at undergraduate and postgraduate level. Well-established undergraduate degrees include Rural Land Management, Real Estate, Agriculture, International Business Management, Food Production and Supply Management, Business and Enterprise, Environment, and International Equine and Agricultural Business Management. In some subjects, there is also the opportunity for students to progress from Foundation to BSc Honours degrees. At postgraduate level the RAU offers a number of taught MSc programmes, including MSc Real Estate (and the proposed MSC International Real Estate). The RAU validates degrees for a number of land-based Further Education Colleges and currently has a programme of franchised degrees with one provider. Expanding our partnership programme with Colleges, Schools and other institutions, in the UK and globally, is a key strategic goal.

The University has also recently established a ground-breaking partnership with the Countryside and Community Research Institute (CCRI) at the University of Gloucestershire and the University College of Estate Management (UCEM), to deliver a new suite of innovative courses focused on sustainability and sector leadership for the 21st Century. We are working closely with a range of major rural and agri-food businesses in the UK and internationally, to develop a new generation of talented and well-equipped rural asset managers

and leaders who can grasp the challenges of future sustainable and resilient business and policy development. The initiative secured HEFCE Catalyst funding.

The University has secured HEIF funding to support an exciting new Knowledge Exchange strategy. Central to this is the development of a Knowledge Hub that helps industry and professionals navigate change and uncertainty making it possible to tackle big challenges more effectively delivering societal benefit and impact. The hub provides a focus to pioneer farmer and business-led innovation, acts as an accelerator of rural enterprise and is a centre for thought leadership for the informed development of evidence-based policy and strategic thinking.

The university has recently invested in a number of business and entrepreneur facing initiatives and facilities, including:

- The Alliston Centre, a £2.4m agri-tech innovation and enterprise hub that offers a flexible, high-tech research and office environment that supports small start-ups, established businesses and individual entrepreneurs to thrive and collaborate.
- Farm491, a £2.9m innovative new agri-tech business incubator located in the Alliston Centre, where students and business leaders can learn from expert advisers.
- Rural Innovation Centre, a £1.2m knowledge hub for students wishing to improve their rural skills training and an on-farm resource for the wider community.
- The Cotswold Hills Vineyard, which produces and bottles wine that are marketed commercially as a University run social enterprise.
- The Growth Hub, a £1.25m dedicated business support service for start-up companies within Gloucestershire, helping them to accelerate their growth and exploit their full potential.
- The Cultural Heritage Institute in Swindon, which fosters a new understanding of the role of cultural heritage in people's quality of life, through initiatives such as heritage-led regeneration of both urban and rural environments.
- RAU is one of only 6 UK universities to be made a Centre of Excellence by the Institute of Enterprise and Entrepreneurs (IOEE).

The School of Agriculture, Food and Environment (SAFE)

The purpose of SAFE is to deliver excellent education, research and engagement activities across environmental, agricultural and food systems. There are currently over 400 students studying within the School, on fourteen taught programmes from Certificate to MSc levels in addition to post-graduate research degrees. The new Head of School, Professor Mike Gooding was appointed in April 2019 and he leads an established team of academics who have an outstanding reputation for developing pioneering farmers and innovative agriculturalists.

The School also provides a range of Knowledge Exchange activities through a menu of CPD courses and corporate training, consultancy, and through local and international networks. Academics engage in internationally recognised research which significantly informs teaching.

The University recently became a centre of excellence for enterprise and entrepreneurship education through the Institute of Enterprise and Entrepreneurs (IOEE), one of only six in the UK.

The Role

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| Post Title: | Lecturer / Senior Lecturer in Sustainable Livestock Production |
| Reports To: | Head of School: Agriculture, Food and Environment |
| Location: | Cirencester, Gloucestershire |
| Term: | Fulltime Permanent |
| Responsibility for: | Teaching Livestock Production and advancing the discipline through research and knowledge exchange |
| Salary: | Grade 8/9: £33,198 - £48,676 DOE |

Role Purpose

The main purpose of the role is to teach and develop the subject of Livestock Production. The necessary expertise for this role will have been acquired through academic practice and also, ideally, through experience in the industry.

The appointee will be expected to teach across our undergraduate and postgraduate courses, will possess an excellent understanding of the subject area and a proven ability to communicate this knowledge to others. You will contribute to the management, administration, coordination and development of relevant parts of the teaching portfolio. There is also an expectation that the successful applicant will engage in related activities such as research, consultancy, and other aspects of knowledge exchange. You will have a teaching qualification or willingness to obtain one.

As a member of Academic Board you will have an opportunity to help shape and deliver change as the University develops a curriculum that remains focussed on the student experience and employability.

The successful candidate will have a degree in a relevant subject area, and either a postgraduate qualification or significant management experience in the land-based sector.

While we would like to appoint an experienced HE academic, we will also consider applications from those at the start of their career.

Key Responsibilities

Teaching and Assessment

- Deliver teaching through lectures, tutorials, seminars, field excursions practical exercises and other modes of delivery to undergraduate and postgraduate students.
- Develop the School's teaching programmes in Livestock Production to ensure they are cutting edge and embrace the latest innovations in teaching and learning.
- Design, deliver and mark a range of assessments, as required by programme specifications.
- Supervise undergraduate and postgraduate student dissertations.
- Create student awareness of current professional practice through visits, case studies and visiting speakers.
- Provide academic and pastoral support for students e.g. through personal tutor responsibilities.
- Contribute to the generation and delivery of professional development courses.

Scholarly and Professional Activity

- Engage in a programme of academic research.
- Engage in on-going professional development, including completion of a Postgraduate Certificate in Academic Practice (PGCAP or equivalent) if not already held.
- Attending and contributing to relevant congresses and conferences to develop the wider agenda and to promote the RAU's programmes.

- Identifying opportunities for marketing the courses at RAU, through interaction, engagement and networking with students, employers, investors and sector specialists.

Administration

- Manage modules, programmes and other functions.
- Attendance at academic board, programme meetings, School meetings, examiners meetings and other management meetings arising from assigned responsibilities.
- Assist with the careers service to students and employers.
- Be part of the School recruitment team.
- Participating in the corporate life of the RAU as deemed relevant by the Head of School and Vice Chancellor.
- To contribute to the development of the wider University's new curriculum and academic agenda.

Skills and Experience

- Proven experience of teaching in the Higher Education Sector, at least up to Masters level.
- Expertise in practical Livestock Production would be particularly welcomed.
- Experience of programme management and design.
- Experience of agricultural business development.
- Previous experience of independent research and /or consultancy would be advantageous.
- Proven experience of leading or influencing teams.
- Working to deadlines and targets and keeping within budgets.
- Ideally you will have a relevant professional post graduate qualification (e.g. a PhD, MBA)

Application Procedure:

If you are interested in applying for this role, please send:

- A University [Academic Application Form](#) together with the [Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form](#) available on the University website www.rau.ac.uk) – Please attach your up to date CV to add additional information
- A covering letter explaining your interest and motivation for applying, along with how your experience and qualifications suit you for the role
- Details for three professional or academic referees

Please forward to the Human Resource, Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester, Gloucestershire, GL7 6JS or via email to human.resources@rau.ac.uk.

Informal enquiries can be made to Professor Mike Gooding (Michael.gooding@rau.ac.uk) or Mr Chris Brough: christopher.brough@rau.ac.uk

Closing date for applications is: 17th September 2019 with **interviews on** 2nd October 2019.